July 7, 2017

Dear Deans, Department Chairs and Directors,

Please share this announcement as appropriate.

The American Heart Association has recently announced the Strategically Focused Research Networks (SFRN) mechanism for Vascular Disease research, a limited competition award (see the description at http://professional.heart.org/professional/ResearchPrograms/StrategicallyFocusedResearchPrograms/UCM_490924_2018-Vascular-Disease-Research-Network.jsp ) with a deadline date of September 26, 2017. The University may put forward a single Center proposal for this award.

If you are interested in submitting a proposal for this award, please upload a pre-proposal as a single document file into UVM’s InfoReady Portal for Institutional Competitions (https://uvm.infoready4.com/). Pre-proposals should be no more than 5 pages (excluding references, CVs and Letter of Support from the Department Chair) and should identify the Center Director, the Training Director, and the Principle Investigators of the three Center projects and a plan for identifying and recruiting trainees. Pre-proposals should describe the research topic/theme and the three proposed research projects and how they are: 1) Relevant to the Sponsor’s specified topics of interest, Peripheral Artery Disease (PAD) and/or Aortic Disease; 2) Innovative; 3) Feasible and; 3) Synergistic. Pre-proposals should also describe the strength and interdisciplinarity of the research team as well as the Directors’ expertise in the research topic, experience in training post-doctoral scholars and ability to lead a Center team. Please include biosketches for the Directors and Principal Investigators. A letter of support from the Department Chair of the proposed Center Director should be included assuring support of the Center along with confirmation that the Center Director will devote at least 20% effort towards the Center.

Pre-proposals will be evaluated using the following criteria: 1) Alignment with the program description and goals; 2) Significance of the proposed research theme; 3) Qualifications of the proposed Center Director; 4) Overall strength, interdisciplinarity and synergy of the research teams; 5) Innovative elements; and 6) Feasibility.

The deadline for submitting LOIs through the InfoReady Portal is July 25, 2017 before 4:30 pm after which the Portal will automatically close.

Please direct questions concerning this announcement to Hilda Alajajian (Hilda.Alajajian@uvm.edu or 656-1322).